



Press Release

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Pennsylvania's August Crop Forecast

HARRISBURG --- Based on August 1, 2003 forecasts for yield and production, the **Keystone state's** farmers expect to produce more corn, oats, soybeans, alfalfa and other hay, tobacco, apples, pears, peaches, and grapes than last year. Production is expected to be below last year for winter wheat and barley according to the Pennsylvania Agricultural Statistics Service.

Corn for grain acreage for harvest, at 900,000, is 3 percent more than last year. Based on crop conditions as of August 1, corn yield is forecast at 115 bushels per acre, which is 47 bushels more than last year's yield. The corn for grain production of 103.5 million bushels is 74 percent more than last year.

Oats acreage for harvest, at 115,000, is unchanged from last year. Based on crop conditions as of August 1, the oat yield is forecast at 66 bushels per acre, which is 5 bushels more than last year. The resulting oat production of 7.6 million bushels will be 8 percent above last year. Barley acreage for harvest, at 65,000, is 5,000 acres more than 2002. Barley yield is set at 60 bushels per acre, down 4 bushels from the July 1 estimate, and down 14 bushels from a year ago. Barley production is expected to be 3.9 million bushels, 12 percent below last year's production. Winter wheat acres harvested totaled 160,000, which is 14 percent less than last year. The August 1 winter wheat yield is estimated at 42 bushels per acre, 8 bushels below the July 1 forecast and 12 bushels per acre less than 2002. The resulting winter wheat production of 6.7 million bushels will be 33 percent below last year.

Soybean acreage for harvest is set at 365,000, up 15,000 acres from last year. The expected yield of 40 bushels per acre is up 14 bushels from 2002. Production is set at 14.6 million bushels, up 60 percent from last year.

Alfalfa acreage harvested for dry hay is estimated at 700,000, up 20,000 acres from 2002. Yield is forecast at 3.1 tons per acre, up 19 percent (or 0.5 ton) from last year. The resulting production, at 2.17 million tons, is 23 percent more than last year. Other hay acres harvested for dry hay is estimated at 1,200,000, up 80,000 acres from last year. The expected yield of 1.90 tons per acre is up 19 percent from the 1.60 tons in 2002. Total production, at 2.28 million tons, is 27 percent more than 2002.

Southern Maryland-type tobacco acres for harvest is 1,300, unchanged from last year. The yield is forecast at 1,900 pounds, which is up 50 pounds from the 1,850 pounds per acre produced in 2002. Production is estimated at 2.47 million pounds, which is 3 percent more than 2002. Pennsylvania seed-leaf tobacco acreage of 2,400, is 300 acres more than last year. The forecast yield of 2,100 pounds is unchanged from 2002. Production, at 5.04 million pounds, is 14 percent more than last year.

Based on August 1 conditions, the state's apple crop is expected to total 440 million pounds, up 19 percent from last year's 370 million pounds. Pear output, at 4,100 tons, is up 8 percent from last year. Grape production of 70,000 tons is up 32 percent from a year earlier. Peach production is forecast at 70.0 million pounds, up 17 percent from last year's production.

United States: Corn production is forecast at 10.1 billion bushels, up 12 percent from last year and 6 percent above 2001. If realized, both production and yield would be the largest on record. Based on August 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 139.9 bushels per acre, up 9.9 bushels from last year. Yields are higher in all states east of the Mississippi River as favorable precipitation and temperatures have been received since, planting occurred. Farmers expect to harvest 71.9 million acres of corn for grain, down 70,000 acres from June, but up 4 percent from 2002.

Soybean production is forecast at 2.86 billion bushels, up 5 percent from 2002, but down 1 percent from 2001. Based on August 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 39.4 bushels per acre, up 1.6 bushels from 2002. Yields are higher than 2002 across much of the United States. Area for harvested, at 72.6 million acres, is down 55,000 acres from June, but up 1 percent from last year.

The final winter wheat production forecast is 1.71 billion bushels. This is down slightly from last month, but 50 percent above 2002. The U.S. yield is forecast at 46.9 bushels per acre, down 0.1 bushels from last month.

Oat production for the 2003 crop year is forecast at 151 million bushels, 2 percent less than the July 1 forecast, and 27 percent above last year's 119 million bushels. Area for harvest is estimated at 2.33 million acres, 2 percent more than July 1, and 11 percent more than last year. The forecasted yield is 64.9 bushels per acre, 0.2 bushels above the July 1 forecast and up 8.1 bushels from 2002.

Barley production for 2003 is forecast at 281 million bushels, down 3 percent from the July forecast but 24 percent above 2002. Based on August 1 conditions, producers expect to harvest an average of 57.5 bushels per acre, down 2.0 bushels from July but up 2.6 bushels from last year. Area harvested, at 4.90 million acres, is unchanged from the July estimate but up 18 percent from 2002.

Production of alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures for dry hay is forecast at 78.0 million tons, up 6 percent from last year. Yields are expected to average 3.31 tons, up 0.12 ton from last year. Harvested area is 23.5 million acres, unchanged from the June estimate, but up 2 percent from 2002. The yield in all but 9 states is the same or above last year's level with most areas receiving adequate moisture.

The first production forecast of other dry hay for 2003 is 82.1 million tons, up 6 percent from 2002. Based on August 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 2.01 tons per acre, up 8 percent from last year and if realized would be at a record high. Harvested area is estimated at 40.8 million acres, unchanged from the June estimate, but down 1 percent from 2002.

All tobacco production for 2003 is forecast at 840 million pounds, down 5 percent from 2002 and 15 percent below 2001. If realized, this will be the smallest crop since 1908. Harvested acres are expected to be 413,710 acres, down 3 percent from last year. Yields for 2003 are expected to average 2,031 pounds per acre, 24 pounds lower than a year ago.

The nation's apple production is forecast at 9.27 billion pounds, up 8 percent from last year and 2 percent below 2001. Peach crop forecast is estimated at 2.62 billion pounds, virtually unchanged from the July forecast but 2 percent above 2002. All pear production for 2003 is forecast at 933,250 tons, up 7 percent from last year but 7 percent below 2001. Grape production is forecast at 7.06 million tons, down 4 percent from 2002, but 7 percent below 2001.